

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, original claim(s) 1-13 (now canceled), drawn to a caterpillar traction apparatus and method of processing a linear member using the caterpillar traction apparatus.

Group II, current claim(s) 11-13, drawn to a method of processing a polymeric tubular member to change, reduce, or increase tensile strain energy stored within the polymeric tubular member.

The groups of inventions listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Original claims 1-13 included the special technical feature of processing (feeding) a linear member using a caterpillar traction apparatus. Current claims 11-13 include the special technical feature of processing a polymeric tubular member to change, reduce, or increase tensile strain energy stored within the polymeric tubular member. The original claims did not include the special technical feature of processing a polymeric

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tubular member to change, reduce, or increase tensile strain energy stored within the polymeric tubular member. The current claims do not include the special technical feature of processing (feeding) a linear member using a caterpillar traction apparatus. Therefore, there is no common special technical feature between the original claims and the current claims.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Since the amendment filed on 9/2/10 cancels or otherwise eliminates all claims drawn to the elected invention and presents only claims drawn to a non-elected invention, it is non-responsive and the amendment has not been entered (MPEP § 821.03).

Since the above-mentioned amendment appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to reply, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this notice within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) ARE AVAILABLE.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT HAUGLAND whose telephone number is (571)272-6945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mansen can be reached on (571) 272-6608. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael R Mansen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3654

/SJH/